

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2348

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4548

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGAN PR

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: A. STATE 229493

B. USUN 3778

C. USUN 4505

1. PARA 7 OF REF A INSTRUCTS ADDRESSEES IN COUNTRIES WHICH SUPPORTED US ON POSTPONEMENT OF THE RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 ONCE AGAIN TO EXPRESS US APPRECIATION FOR THAT SUPPORT.

2. WE BELIEVE THIS MAY BE THE WRONG TACK TO TAKE SEMANTICALLY. WE FIND THAT DELEGATIONS PREFER US TO EXPRESS SATISFACTION THAT PRINCIPLES WHICH WE SHARE WITH THEM WERE THE MOTIVATION FOR THEIR VOTE ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE. WE BELIEVE THAT EXPRESSING THANKS FOR SUPPORT POLITICIZES THE ISSUE AND PLAYS INTO THE HANDS OF THE CUBANS WHO REPEATEDLY ALLEGED DURING THE COURSE OF THE DEBATE OVER PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 THAT WHAT WAS AT STAKE WAS NOT THE INDEPENDENCE OF PUERTO RICO BUT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE COMMITTEE ITSELF-- FROM US PRESSURE.

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3. WE REPORTED (REF. B) THE NEGATIVE REACTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 TO THE HOFMANN ARTICLE IN THE AUGUST 21 NEW YORK TIMES WHICH PUBLICIZED US EFFORTS TO BRING COMMITTEE MEMBERS INTO LINE.

4. THE STRATEGY WHICH WE RECOMMEND (REF C) FOR RESOLVING OUR PROBLEMS WITH PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24 AT ITS NEXT SESSION DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON NOT RUBBING SALT INTO THE WOULDDED SENSIBILITIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

5. RECOMMENDATION: THAT WE NOT, STRICLY SPEAKING, "THANK" COUNTRIES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF 24 FOR THEIR SUPPORT; RATHER, THAT WE EXPRESS OUR SATISFACTION THAT ON THIS IMPORTANT MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, THEIR POSITION AND OURS COINCIDES.
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